

**April 23, 2010**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - At a press conference held today at Remington Arms' Ilion, NY facility, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) was joined by management and employees to discuss legislation that he will be introducing next week in the U.S. House of Representatives that would allow the company to compete for additional federal defense contracts which could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars and lead to further expansion and job creation.

"I firmly believe the role of government is not to create jobs, but to create an economic climate where businesses have the opportunity to grow and create jobs without the government standing in their way," **said Arcuri**. "This legislation will give Remington the opportunity to compete for contracts worth hundreds of millions of dollars that they currently can't access. Increasing competition is a win any way you look at it-it saves taxpayer money, it provides our soldiers with the best possible equipment, and it brings the opportunity for more work at Remington Arms right here in Ilion."

"On behalf of our one thousand Remington employees in Ilion and their families, I thank Congressman Arcuri for his leadership," **said Remington Arms Ilion Plant Manager Jim Rabbia**. "By securing funding for the M24 sniper rifle and introducing the Small Arms Competition and Innovation Act, Congressman Arcuri continues to demonstrate he is a leader in Congress on small arms issues and has shown he is committed to serving our military and Remington's operations in Ilion."

"This is the sort of vision we need from our elected officials," **said Rusty Brown, President of United Mine Workers of America Local 717 in Ilion, which represents Remington employees**. "Creating legislation that allows Remington the opportunity to compete for future contracts will not only ensure the more than 900 existing jobs remain but also lead to the creation of even more good paying union jobs-something that will benefit the entire region."

Current law limits competition for federal small arms critical parts contracts to three companies (Colt, General Dynamics and FN Herstal). The Small Arms Competition and Innovation Act would allow all U.S. small arms manufacturers, including Remington, the opportunity to compete for these contracts, which would encourage innovation, save taxpayers money, and ensure

that warfighters have the most innovative and leading-edge equipment.

For example, the U.S. Army recently issued a sources sought solicitation for contractors desiring to compete for a \$30 million contract to upgrade the M4 carbine. This could be the first of several contracts the Army will award to upgrade many of the 500,000 M4 carbines in its inventory. If enacted, the Small Arms Competition and Innovation Act will ensure Remington and other manufacturers have the opportunity to offer innovative upgrades to the M4 carbine in a fair and open competition. Remington's manufacturing work for this contract and other small arms contracts with the Army would be performed at the Ilion, NY facility. This would create jobs in the region and would help position Ilion as the center of excellence for small arms manufacturing in the United States.

"Remington makes some of the finest firearms products anywhere in the country," **Arcuri added.** "They should have the opportunity to win these contracts in a fair and open competition."

This builds upon Arcuri's efforts to increase Remington's access to federal defense contract opportunities as they expand their expertise beyond traditional sporting firearms into long-term military capabilities that will strengthen the company and spur future economic growth in Herkimer County and surrounding communities.

Arcuri has been instrumental in securing \$5.6 million in federal funding over the past two years for the U.S. Army to upgrade over 3,000 M24 sniper rifles used by servicemen and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Currently, Remington Arms is competing for this contract and if successful, all work would take place at the Ilion, NY facility by local employees.

Remington currently manufactures most of the M24 sniper rifles used by U.S. servicemen and women across the globe at its Ilion, NY facility. Remington has been a significant employer in Ilion since 1828 and boasts more than 900 employees, 500 of which would work on the M24 upgrade.

Arcuri has also met with Brigadier General Peter Fuller (Program Executive Officer - Solider), who is responsible for the design, development, procurement, and sustainability of equipment U.S. soldiers wear or carry in the field, including firearms, to discuss the U.S. Army's growing

relationship with Remington Arms. Also at the request of Arcuri, BG Fuller's predecessor, BG Mark Brown visited Remington Arms Ilion, NY facility to see first-hand Remington's superior craftsmanship and dedicated workforce.

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